

Okay, if you have your Bibles if you could please turn to Ephesians the book of Ephesians Ephesians chapter 3 Ephesians chapter 3 and We're going to be looking at this if you found your place if you could please stand with me in honor of God's Word if you're able to We want to thank those who are watching by internet or live stream And what a blessing for those who are watching That God would richly bless them and speak to them through his word so again Ephesians chapter 3 beginning in verse 1 the Bible says for this cause I Paul the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles if You have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God Which is given me to you would how that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery as I wrote afore in a few words Whereby when you read ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as It is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs and of the same body and Partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel Let's pray father. We thank you We thank you for all that you've done in our lives. We thank you for the gospel message We thank you for those who brought that message to us and father most of all We thank you for Jesus Who was willing to go to the cross and die for our sin and give us eternal life So father again, I I pray Lord that you would bless our time in your word and for that for that soul Lord that does not know you in a Personal way father.

I pray that you would speak to that soul and Show them its need. So again Lord, we just pray that you would bless our time together in Jesus name. Amen Well, you could be seated at this time.

Thank you So here we find the Apostle Paul writing this letter from prison and here he begins to explain his ministry to the Gentiles Now we know that the Apostle Paul was there in Was a persecutor of those Jews those Jewish believers in the Messiah Jesus Right from the beginning and he began to persecute them until the the road of Damascus So but now here Paul a prisoner because of the gospel message He is presenting the heart of this letter here to the Gentiles that the church is essential to the redemptive plan of God And what does that mean? You are saved not just for eternity but to become To become a ambassador for Christ to bring the gospel message to the lost in The church is essential to the eternal plan of redemption Jesus is no longer on earth, but yet he lives within all of us who are born-again Christians and Look again in Ephesians chapter 3 verse 1 He says for this cause I Paul the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles He's speaking directly to the Gentiles and if you turn to Romans Romans chapter 11 Just want to show you this Romans chapter 11 Look what it says Romans chapter 11 look what it says in verse 13 He says for I speak to you Gentiles in as much as I am the apostle of the Gentiles I magnified my office. What's he saying here? He's saying yes, he's a Jew But yet God has called him to a specific Ministry of becoming a what an apostle to the Gentiles He was not the apostles to the Jews as the twelve were called to do But yet one what? One Judas we know what happened to him, but Here the Apostle Paul after the resurrection has been called to be a witness for Jesus to the Gentiles And the phrase for this cause points backward I believe to Ephesians chapter 2 verse 11 in a few other scriptures Where Paul reminds the Gentiles how far away they were from God and the people of God the Jews But now they have been brought near by the blood of Christ So if you turn in your Bibles back to Ephesians Ephesians chapter 2 Look what it says from verse 11 and I'm going to read of quite a few verses here so you can get the the understanding of the context of the scriptures here He says in verse 11 Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh Who were called? Uncircumcision by that which is called the circumcision in the flesh made by hands. What is he saying? The Jews would look at us and call us uncircumcised Because they had the promise of God through Abraham.

They were circumcised and Yet it says in verse 12 that at the that at the time ye were without Christ being aliens from the Commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise Having no hope and without God in the world See the the Gentiles they had all these different gods Plural lower G

gods. Amen. They had all these different belief systems But now we see it's the blood of Jesus that brought us as close brought us together Christ has brought Jews and Gentiles into true peace from both groups and He has created a a one new people It's called the church Jew and Gentile coming together with the Spirit of God in each and that's the church So we find that this is the great mystery of the church.

Amen So turn back to Ephesians chapter 3 Ephesians chapter 3 we see the source of this great mystery Think of it. It was a great mystery Jew and Gentiles coming together One in here in Ephesians chapter Chapter 3 look what it says in verse 2 and 3 Says if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God, which is given me to you would how by how that by Revelation he made known unto me the mystery as I wrote in a few words Here he the Apostle Paul speaking of the source of this great mystery The gospel message was not made up by Paul. It was a mystery.

It was a divine divine not human and Paul was saying that this message is not of him. It was entrusted to him by the revelation of Jesus Christ himself the ascended Savior. Amen Turn with me to Galatians and we see another another crucial passage of Scripture in Here we find Wait, hold on.

We're Where am I now? Yeah, here we go Galatians chapter 1 Look what it says in verse verse 11 And here the Apostle Paul writing again. He says but I certify you brethren That the gospel which was preached of me is not after man see it and Then he says for I neither received it of man. Neither was I taught it but by the revelation of Jesus Christ So here the Apostle Paul is speaking and letting us know that this came from the Lord Jesus.

Amen so secondly We see in Ephesians chapter 3 again If you turn back to Ephesians chapter 3, we see the secret of the great mystery and we find that in in Ephesians chapter 3 verses 4 and 5 Again we're looking at from Ephesians chapter 3 verse 1 through 6, but look what it says in verse 4 and 5 The secret of the great mystery He says whereby When you read you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men as It is now revealed unto his holy angel Apostles and prophets by the Spirit So here we he's saying that it's a mystery and I'd like to give this definition I've given it before a Mystery is a divine truth That had not been previously revealed Amen, it's a spiritual truth that has not been previously revealed in the scriptures It was hidden in the past to be revealed From this particular time the church age and we see that and in Romans chapter 16 I'll let you get there Romans chapter 16 in Romans chapter 16 verse 25 Here the Apostle Paul again, and I want to just at this time remind you that he's the apostle to the Gentiles and This was a new revelation And he says in Romans chapter 16 verse 25 he says now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery Which was kept secret since the world began but now is made manifest and by the scriptures of the prophets according to the commandment of the Everlasting God made known to all nations for the obedience of faith What Paul is saying here is that the message of the ministry the mystery Concerned in the church was not something newly invented But a truth long concealed in the Old Testament and now fully unveiled in the New Testament What a blessing when we look at this And if you would like turn to Colossians, I know I have a lot of scripture today Amen But we find in Colossians Colossians chapter 1 Colossians chapter 1 verse 25 Here the Apostle Paul again writing he says whereof I am made a minister according to the Dispensation of God which is given to me for you to fulfill the Word of God even the mystery which had been hid from ages and from Generations, but now made manifest to his saints What a blessing God has begun a new work since the cross since the burial since the resurrection and What was happening was God wanted to use Israel as his holy vehicle to reach The whole world Of course, we know that the whole world was what turned from the true God and began to go after what? Fables and and and false gods and false teachings But yet God saw man

turning away from him He reached down in Genesis chapter. Well 12. Let's look at that Genesis chapter 12 and he finds He finds a man Abraham hearing in Genesis chapter 12 Look what it says and this is to Abraham.

I'm gonna look at three verses here Genesis chapter 12 verse 1 to 3 and Here it says and now the Lord has said unto Abram get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee and I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee and Make thy name great and thou shalt be a blessing and I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that cursed thee and In these shall the families of the earth be blessed Here's the promise Amen Again, look at verse 3 again, and I will bless them that bless thee and curse them that cursed thee and in thee Shall all families of the earth be blessed Here we see the promise to Abram And we know that God had revealed only to him at this point To leave his nation leave his family why they were what? They were serving all kind of false gods. Amen and what did he say he says leave separate and go to a What how did he say it and he says from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee and This was the first this was the first move God blessed Abraham because from Abraham we come out to the nation of Israel and So that God could bless all nations through Israel But Israel misunderstood the love of God They looked at all the nations and they saw all the faults The false gods that they worship they saw they saw all the idol worship they saw all the paganism and They said our God is the true God and all these other nations are cursed forever But they did not Understand God's love Because God created all nations. Amen But was going to willing to use one that he chose and that's why they call him what the chosen ones right Because God showed his love for Israel Israel foolishly thought that God only loved Israel and That's why when you look at the book of Jonah Perfect illustration Jonah Here God calls Jonas's Jonah.

I want you to go to Nineveh and at the time Nineveh was so evil and yet Jonah knew how evil they were and God was ready to what? to turn and humble and and and show mercy to to Nineveh So what did Jonah do he went the opposite way But today we see the mystery of the church We see that God did love not only the Jew but the Gentiles So the third point I have here is this the

Excuse me the specifics of the great mystery Turn back to ephesians chapter 3 And look what it says in verse 6 ephesians chapter 3 verse 6 And we find that the gentiles should be fellow heirs of the same body and uh and partakers of his promise in christ by the gospel Isn't that amazing Isn't that? God was now moving to bring in the gentiles Those who would what by the gospel message repent and and claim jesus as their messiah and savior And although the gospels the message that jesus and his disciples speaks of Is of the kingdom You never hear about the church Why in in jesus earthly ministry? He wasn't talking about the church It was still a mystery at that time and most churches Lose this they think that jesus in the gospels Uh matthew mark luke and john He was speaking of the church, but he wasn't he was speaking to the jew And this is a problem It's only in matthew chapter 16 18 that you get a glimpse of what he's talking about the church turn with me to matthew matthew chapter 16 And we see only a glimmer In here in matthew 16 And once I get here you you'll know exactly where i'm at matthew chapter 16 verse 18 And here we find the great confession of simon peter When jesus says to the his apostles, who do they say that I am remember that? And they go in and oh, you're you know, some people say that you're you're uh uh the prophet of uh Elijah and this and that And then he turns to peter And look at verse 18 matthew 16 verse 18 And I say also unto thee And I should back up to 17 and jesus answering and said unto him blessed art thou simon by jonah For well, let's go back. I'm, sorry Let's go back to verse 16 to verse 15 And he said unto them but whom say ye that I am First he says to his disciples who do those people out there say I am But now he turns directly to them and he says But whom say ye that I am And simon peter answered and said thou art the christ The son of the living god And jesus answered and said unto him Blessed art thou simon by jonah for flesh and

blood had not revealed it unto thee But my father which is in heaven And here's what I was going to start at in verse 18 and I say also unto thee that thou art peter You see this Thou art peter and upon this rock I will build my church See you got to understand something though When he's talking to peter It's again, it's a it's a play from peter's name. It's petra to petros amen It means stone A rock And a lot of times I hear a lot of people say no he's talking about peter But he's not he's talking about the testimony of peter Who jesus is? And he says I will build my church And the gate shall not prevail against it.

What is he saying? I will build my church on the truth that you just proclaim peter This is what he's saying The mystery of the church was concealed in the old testament, but now revealed in the new testament And here's the only time we see the word church And in the old testament contained shadows and promises And prophecies, but the full picture of the church was concealed until christ Turn with me to isaiah isaiah 56 Let's look at this isaiah 56 again, remember the the jew only thought That they were going to be saved The jew only thought it was them that god was going to bless the true god of heaven was going to bless just the jew But look what he says in isaiah chapter 56 Isaiah chapter 56 look at it from verse 6 It says also the sons of the strangers. These are people that are not jews That join themselves to the lord To serve him and to love the name of the lord To be his servants everyone that keep it the sabbath from polluting it And take hold of my covenant. He's talking in the old testament those who had placed their faith In the in the god of israel, but look what he says in verse 7 even them will I bring to my holy mountain And make them joyful in my house of prayer Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar For mine house shall be called in house of prayer for all people.

Do you hear that? The jew didn't understand this verse 8 the lord god was gathered The outcasts of israel saith yet will I gather others? to him Beside those that are gathered unto him Here's a little glimmer Of what god was going to do in the new testament With the shed blood of christ What a blessing The old testament contained shadows and promises And prophecies, but the full picture was concealed until christ Turned back to the new testament And we're going to look at this one last scripture in acts in acts chapter one And again, we're talking about the mystery We're talking about jew and gentile coming together and becoming one people A new people. Amen And here in acts chapter one Beginning in verse six now think of what's happened. Jesus has now been resurrected And all the time he was Preaching in his earthly ministry to the jews.

What was he talking about the kingdom? He was going to build the kingdom of david back And now he's been resurrected Now he's ready to ascend in heaven and in verse six of acts chapter one It says and when they therefore will come together they asked of him saying lord Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to israel And look what he says He says in verse seven And he said unto him It is not for you to know the times Or the seasons which the father had put in his own power. What does that mean in his own authority? Remember when when a jewish a jewish man is going to get Married and he finds his bride And before he goes to get his bride, what's he do? He builds a um A homestead on his feet on his father's property Authority And as he's building it, it's his father that gives the authority that Overlooks it and being the father. He has the authority to say now it's time to go get your bride Everything you've done has been fulfilled Well, it's the same thing here Jesus says it's not for you to know the times of other seasons from which the father had put in his own power And here in verse eight look what he says but ye Shall receive power after that the holy ghost has come upon you And ye shall be witnesses unto me both in jerusalem And in all judea And in samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth What jesus is saying is this? Now that i've been given my shed blood for the sins of the world Now that i've been raised from the dead the third day now i'm about to be what? Ascend back to my father's throne To the right hand of my father's throne.

What does he say? He says it's not time for the kingdom to israel, but it's time to be witness of me to all the world What a blessing And if you think that your salvation is just to get you to heaven you've missed the point of the gospel message Yes, it's for you to receive eternal life, but it's also for you to tell others Of the great Blessings in the great gift of god through the through the shed blood of jesus The gospel does not create two peoples It creates one new humanity in christ jesus All those who had placed their faith and trust in the messiah And that's the the great mystery of the church the mystery one Hidden is now revealed christ has created one redeemed people from every nation By the spirit's power What a blessing And again, remember what he said we were aliens We had no right to the promises That was given to israel, but because of christ we have now been brought in Jew and gentile One body the church, isn't that a blessing? Boy But it was a mystery And today the jew still looks at It still looks at the the uh, the gentile as going as what heathens and yet they themselves Don't understand have not understood that it's now through the gospel message the death burial resurrection That we all come To this promise of eternal life Through jesus christ our lord What a blessing Man as we understand this more and more as gentiles And as we understand more and more that we've been given mercy And we've been showed grace And we've been given the spirit of god to empower us to be witnesses of jesus And it all starts with the way we live The way we live before this world is makes a big difference How can you call jesus the lord and savior? And and that you are his child when you're living just like the gentiles just like the world amen Let us be holy for he is holy Let's pray father. We thank you We thank you for this great mystery the church Jew and gentile Father we thank you for the writings of the apostle paul under the inspiration of the holy spirit Help us lord. Help us as Gentiles to truly understand and father help the jew to truly understand Who their messiah was and now today Is a new dispensation today.

We come to god through jesus christ He said it himself in john 14 six I am the way the truth and the life no man come unto the father, but by me That's the gospel May we all jew and gentile humble ourselves And accept jesus as messiah in payment for our sin Father help that one who might not understand Open their hearts lord and show and reveal them who jesus is and this I pray in jesus name. Amen